

**Education and Community Outreach Committee
Meeting Minutes
September 23, 2021 – 12:00pm Central Time via Zoom
<https://utsa.zoom.us/j/9013659006>**

1. **Attendance**— Ross Boulanger (*University of California-Davis*), Cheryl Ann Blain (*NCO Communication Rep-US Naval Research Laboratory*), Lindsay Carroll (*Oregon State University*) Patricia Clayton (*UT Mobile Shakers Rep- Wake Forest University*), Candace Evans (*University of Colorado- Boulder*), Rosalia Gomez (*University of Texas – Austin*), Kurtis Gurley (*University of Florida*), Chad Kusko (*Lehigh University*), Laura Lowes (*University of Washington*), Erik Salna (*Florida International University*), Melissa Villareal (*University of Colorado-Boulder*), Robin Nelson (*University of Texas at San Antonio*)

2. **ECO Updates**



- Thank you so much for all of your work with REU students this summer, and your support in the Summer Institute!
- New members? No new members.
- NCO NSF renewal- 10/1- some changes to our funding
- NHERI DesignSafe Learning Center update: REU, NHERI Graduate Student Council, Summer Institute
- NHERI NCO Communications PPT- Cheryl Ann Blain (***Please see attached Communications PPT**)

3. **NHERI REU**

Possible Dates— Based on survey feedback . . .

- **ACTION ITEM:** If you are a BLOCK 1 university (FIU, Lehigh, UF, UT, UC Berkeley), please let me know if June 1 – August 9, 2021, will work for your site.
- Block 2, June 13 – August 19, 2021

Suggested changes for the REU Program

Thank you for the feedback and discussion on changes to the REU program. Laura suggested that we may not need to include the poster, presentation, and paper for the REU

students in order to reduce the amount of stress on REU students. We also discussed the differences in responsibility on the REU students in a virtual vs and in-person environment. Kurt suggested that it was much more difficult to hold students accountable virtually compared to in-person and that some students may have struggled in this situation. Tricia brought up the timing of the lesson plan deliverable from the ECO which was moved to accommodate the Natural Hazards Workshop. REU most likely will not be able to attend the Natural Hazards Workshop in 2022 due to changes in our renewal funding. This will result in the restructuring of the timeline to the 2019 deliverable schedule and may result in less stress. We did not come to conclusions on these items and hope to discuss ECO programming further next meeting.

Feedback— Review NHERI REU Survey Feedback Overview

Positive

- Increased research experience, knowledge, explanation, writing, poster creation, and presentation
- Increased problem solving
- Increased confidence in collaboration and networking
- Interest in pursuing a master's degree
- Increased interest in an engineering career and unlikely to switch fields

Reconciled Beliefs

- Ability to take responsibility for project
- Interest in natural hazards and pursuing PhD

Areas of improvement

- Research meeting length
- Career development focus on graduate school, application, and funding
- Mentorship (mainly virtual)
- Communication between ECO and sites

****Please see attached PPT for full survey data.***

Application—ACTION ITEM: Please review the REU application and your site's section paying special attention to purple highlights. Let me know if you would suggest any changes by Wednesday, September 29.

- https://utsa.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_0BppO5WaeZTjLf0

4. NHERI Graduate Student Council

Purpose— ACTION ITEM: We are launching a new graduate community this fall and would love your feedback on our purpose and ideas for its organization by Friday, October 1. *Please see the NHERI Graduate Student Council two-page document for additional information.

The NHERI ECO seeks to support graduate students through the development of a natural hazard graduate community. The NHERI Graduate Student Council will help. . .

- **Build** diverse a graduate community for natural hazards researchers,
- **Connect** students with diverse mentors in the natural hazards' community,
- **Educate** students on natural hazards, research, and careers via workshops,
- **Encourage** diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) conversations,

- **Expose** students to the impact of research on natural hazards' practice,
- **Provide** leadership, service, and funding opportunities.

The broader goal of the NHERI Graduate Student Council is to prepare the next generation of natural hazards researchers and scientists.

Suggested Changes to the Purpose

A few changes were suggested to the wording of the purpose and the bullets above reflect those changes. It was also mentioned that the name may make it seem that the organization is limited and not inclusive. We hope to allow the council members to select the council's name to foster inclusivity and ownership. Finally, it was brought to the attention of the committee that we may need a carrot and in-person social events to build this community and encourage online participation. Participants of the NHERI Graduate Student Council may apply for an NSF Travel Award to attend the NHERI Summer Institute and be paired with an early-career faculty mentor. The ECO will select five participants from the council to receive the award, however, we are not sure how we should decide who is eligible to apply and would love to hear your ideas. We are also working on securing funding for 20 council members to travel to a conference in May to report on the development, purpose, and experience of the NHERI Graduate Council. This would allow participants to meet in person and help further build our natural hazards graduate community. Any thoughts or ideas are welcomed.

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER FOR THE NEXT MEETING:

- What are some ways we can encourage participation in the NHERI Graduate Student Council?
- How might we select 5 graduate students from the NHERI Graduate Student Council to attend the NHERI Summer Institute?

Application— ACTION ITEM: *Please review the NHERI Graduate Student Council registration/application and let me know if you suggest any changes by **Friday, October 1.***
https://utsa.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_ebcSry8Nq9XZUvc

5. NHERI Summer Institute

Possible Dates— Based on survey feedback . . .


- June 20-22, 2022

Feedback—Review NHERI Summer Institute Survey Feedback

Positive

- Presentation evaluation ratings
- Increased knowledge of, experience with, and plans to work with NHERI
- Increased desire to work outside of specialization and to collaborate
- Improved feelings of preparedness to write a grant proposal

Areas of improvement

- More in-person networking opportunities with NHERI (We need you in San Antonio .)
- More time with NHERI sites
- Confidence in grant proposal submission
- Alignment with NHERI Science Plan
- Examples for mock proposal

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER FOR THE NEXT MEETING:

- How would you like to incorporate your site into the NHERI Summer Institute in 2022?
- Who would you recommend attending the NHERI Summer Institute for your site?
- How do long do you envision is needed for Summer Institute?

Application— ACTION ITEM: *Please review the Summer Institute application, your site's section, and purple font, and let me know if you would suggest any changes by **Friday, October 8.***

- https://utsa.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_cusAMpsLw63YmQm

6. New Business

ACTION ITEM: *Please take the NHERI ECO Committee Meeting poll to set our time and date for the **remainder of the fall:** <http://whenisgood.net/idaygm9>.*

7. Adjourn